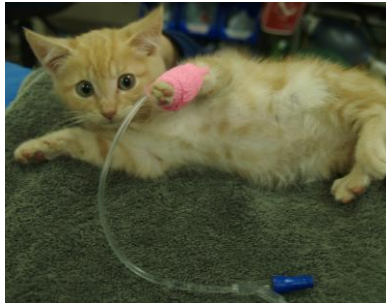


LORT SMITH ANIMAL HOSPITAL – MEDIA RELEASE

July 28th, 2011

LORT SMITH WARNS OF POISON DANGER



Lort Smith Animal Hospital ICU staff members have already seen 16 cases of household pets with rat bait poisoning and expect that number to increase during the winter season.

Vet Dr Tristan Rich said “It is vital that pet owners take the necessary steps to ensure that their pet does not consume rat bait.”

Dr Tristan Rich recommends to pet owners to think of alternative ways to treat their rat or mice problem. The best alternative is to call your local pest control professionals and have them trap the rats or mice. If owners opt to use rat bait it is extremely important to ensure that their cat or dog is not exposed. Furthermore it is important to check for dead rats and mice so that your dog or cat won't eat the rat or mice and be poisoned.

What to do if your pet consumes rat poison?

Dr Tristan Rich recommends that you take your pet straight to your local veterinarian clinic or hospital. It is advised to bring the bait packet and not to feed your cat or dog food.

What are the symptoms?

“These are somewhat broad and can be symptomatic of other conditions which will often take a few days to show signs after exposure. If there is any possibility of exposure then things to watch out for would be bleeding from the nose, gums, ears, eye, urine faeces and saliva, bruising, lethargy, decreased appetite, increased thirst, trouble breathing and coughing, distended abdomen, pale gums, collapse, loss of consciousness and sudden death” says Dr Rich

Generally there are two types of cases; the first is when the owner sees their pet consume rat bait, and the second is when the owner doesn't see their pet consume it. Cats and dogs have a better chance of survival if there owner is aware of the consumption.

For further information about Lort Smith Animal Hospital visit www.lortsmith.com or call (03) 9328 3021